

NEW EVIDENCE FOR THE LOCATION OF THE ATTIC DEME KOPROS

(PLATE 52)

IN THE course of the Greek Archaeological Society's excavation of the bridge which carried the Sacred Way across the Eleusinian Kephissos about a kilometer east of Eleusis, an inscription was found built into the west wall of a mediaeval tower which had been constructed on top of the bridge.¹ The inscription is on a rectangular block of Pentelic marble 0.69 m. high, 0.50 m. wide and 0.43 m. thick, which is essentially intact. There are no mouldings. The top and the four sides are smoothly dressed; the bottom is roughly picked. The inscription occupies the upper part of one of the broader faces of the block and contains the names of six persons, five men and a woman. The inscribed face is somewhat damaged, particularly around the edges, so that all the names cannot be read with certainty.

The text is as follows: (Height of letters av. 0.025 m.)

III or early II century B.C.

[Θράσιπ]πος Φιλίνου [Κόπ]ρε[ιος]
 [Φι]λῆνος Θρασίππου Κόπρειο[ς]
 [. . .] πείθης Θρασίππου Κόπρειο[ς]
 [Να]υσικράτης Εὐθινόμου
 5 [Κ ό] π ρ ε ι ο ς
 [²⁻³] ννις Θρασίππου Κ[οπ]ρείου
 [Θο]ύδιππος Εὐξί [-³⁻⁴ -]
 Π α ι [ο] ν ί δ η [ς]

Lines 1 and 2. The names are restored by analogy with other names on the stone. Thrasippos in line 1 seems quite probable. Philinos in line 2 is well supported by the remains of the letters and may be considered virtually certain.

Line 3. If the *pi* is correctly read, the name might be [Εὐ]πείθης, but only part of the horizontal bar is preserved.

Line 4. A Nausikrates Melampodorou Kopreios is known from a columnar grave monument of the III/II century B.C. (*I.G.*, II², 6539).

¹ On the bridge, see John Travlos, *Πρακτικά*, 1950, pp. 122-127. Mr. Travlos, who conducted the excavation on behalf of the Archaeological Society, has invited me to publish the inscription, which forms the basis of this article. The inscription remains where it was found, but may later be transferred to the Eleusis Museum.

Line 6. Some name such as [Ξε]ννίς might be restored.

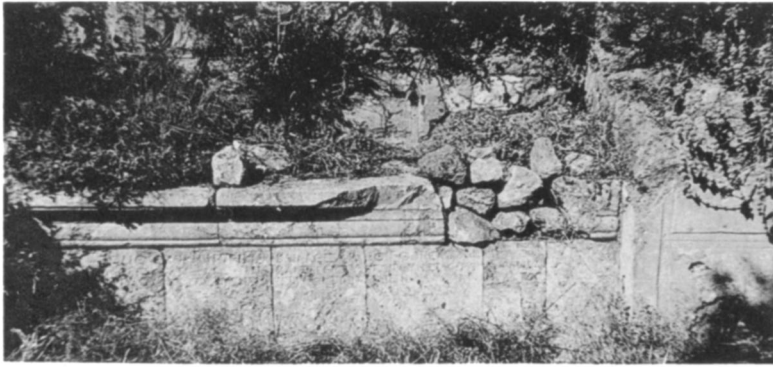
Line 7. Εὐξί[ππου], Εὐξί[θείου], or the like.

The stone is a grave monument from a family burial plot and may be dated in the third or early second century B.C. on the basis of the letter forms. It was probably originally set up somewhere in the immediate neighborhood, for it is a large block; most of the other remaining blocks of the tower were taken from the bridge itself, which shows that the builders did not go far afield for material.

It is noteworthy that five of the six persons are from the deme Kopros. This was a small deme of the Hippothontid tribe which is said by the scholiast on Aristophanes' *Knights*, 899, to have been an island. The exact location of the deme is not known, but it may be placed in the Eleusis area, which is the coastal riding of Hippothontis. Honigmann (*R.E.*, s.v. Kopros, 1) discusses the various suggestions that have been made as to its location and concludes that it is to be sought on the coast of the Thriasian plain, supposing that it occupied a sort of island that had been formed in antiquity by the arms of the Kephissos. This view is supported, one might almost say confirmed, by the present inscription which must once have stood somewhere close by marking the graves of Thrasippos of Kopros, a local worthy, and his family.

EUGENE VANDERPOOL

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS



a.



b.



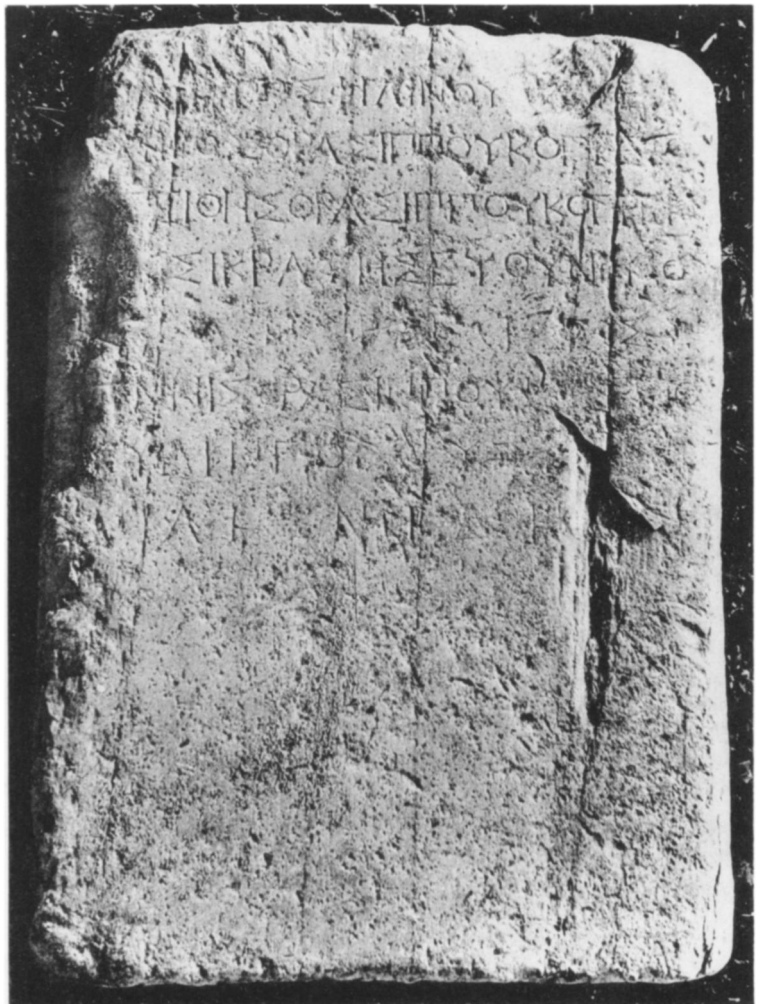
c.

Epidauros Limera

MICHAEL JAMESON: INSCRIPTIONS OF THE PELOPONNESOS



DAVID M. ROBINSON: A MAGICAL
INSCRIPTION FROM PISIDIAN ANTIOCH



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